

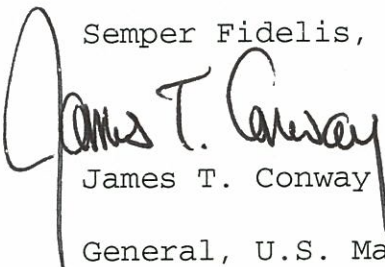


A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

I am pleased to announce the inaugural Marine Week activities held in partnership with the great city of Chicago from 11-17 May 2009. This is the first of many celebrations honoring country and Corps in cities across the Nation.

Established to recognize the contributions of local Marine heroes, their families, and the cities from which they came, Marine Week also showcases the rich history and traditions of our beloved Corps. During the week, citizens will find Marines volunteering at local food kitchens and community parks, inspiring students by sharing their stories of service to their country, conducting intense physical fitness challenges and martial arts demonstrations, and performing with local musical groups. The Marine Corps will also display aircraft, vehicles, and the latest technology and equipment used to protect and preserve our Nation and its citizens.

As we embark on this journey, I encourage you to salute the Marines serving in your community and accept my invitation to celebrate Marine Week with your United States Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps